



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Department of Emergency Preparedness

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News Release

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Maryland Severe Storm Awareness Week Is April 7-13

County Reminds Residents: "When Flooded Turn Around, Don't Drown"

FREDERICK, MD – Maryland Severe Storms Awareness Week is this week and the Division of Frederick County Emergency Management is teaming up with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) to promote citizen awareness and preparedness.

NWS emphasizes that the mid-Atlantic region is at risk for flooding, damaging winds, tornadoes, hail, and lightning storms every year. Maryland experiences severe storms regularly during the spring and is particularly at risk for flooding, but also experiences hailstorms and even tornadoes. Maryland has had nearly 100 tornadoes in the past ten years.

During spring, Frederick County experiences severe weather and is at risk for flooding, damaging winds, tornadoes, hail and lightning. The Department of Emergency Preparedness reminds citizens not to drive through flooded areas during heavy rains, but to "Turn Around Don't Drown" and if there is thunder or lightning, to move inside right away. This is also a good time to check on business, homeowner or renter insurance to ensure proper coverage in emergencies.

Residents can be "weather prepared" by ensuring that they know how to receive a warning, have a plan, and practice safety tips. Sign up for emergency alerts at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ALERT.

"Every year, Maryland gets severe thunderstorms that target localized communities," said Christopher Strong, NWS warning coordination meteorologist at the Baltimore/Washington Forecast Office. "If Marylanders get National Weather Service warnings from phone apps and/or weather radio, and have a plan for what to do, we can all stay safe from the damaging winds, large hail, flooding, tornadoes, and lightning."

(more)

The Frederick County Division of Emergency Management works closely with NWS and MEMA to identify and monitor severe weather systems, develop preparedness plans and safety information, and coordinate the response to these storms.

Residents can also take actions to remain safe by practicing the following tips:

- During flooding, never drive over an area where water is flowing over the road and you cannot see the pavement. Turn around, don't drown!
- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued or you are experiencing strong winds, get to a sturdy shelter and stay indoors away from windows.
- Tornadoes can form rapidly in the right conditions. If there is a tornado warning or you see a tornado, quickly get inside and go to the lowest floor possible.
- If you hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck from a fringe lightning strike. More than 98% of lightning casualties are from people outdoors—get indoors or inside your vehicle if possible.

For more information on preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies and hazards, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/READY, [NWS "Weather Ready" website](#) and the [MEMA website](#). Additionally, the Department of Emergency Preparedness can be contacted at 301-600-1746 or EM@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

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